

NEWS

Depot warriors learn Close Quarters Battle tactics



Cpl. Jennifer Brofer  
(Above) Gunnery Sgt. Troy Black, CQB instructor, and Sgt. Sebastiano Siino, clear a staircase in one of the four buildings of the MOUT facility Oct. 22.  
(Below) Sergeant Orville Wempner prepares to enter a building. In this stack, Wempner acts as the ‘rabbit’ and awaits the signal that his team his ready.



Cpl. Jennifer Brofer

17 Marines take on training to learn to secure buildings and rooms in preparation to train others.

CPL. JENNIFER BROFER  
STAFF WRITER

“Freeze! Hatch right! Stack on me! Clear!” barked the group of Marines equipped with 9 mm pistols as they went from room to room in an attempt to safely clear the building.

Seventeen Depot Marines executed Close Quarters Battle tactics at the WFTBn. Military Operations on Urban Terrain facility Oct. 22, where they put into play the skills they had been taught throughout two days of classroom instruction. They learned how to effectively clear a building full of enemy personnel and move from one enclosure to another, along with the principles of occupancy control.

The Marines were taught these tactics so they could pass on the information to other Marines and prepare them for a MOUT exercise that will be conducted in the summer.

According to Gunnery Sgt. Troy Black, regimental drill master and CQB instructor, 80-90 percent of enemy populations live in urban areas. Close Quarters Battle tactics, which go hand in hand with MOUT, specifically enable Marines to secure a constricted area in order to establish a base of operations.

“This training gives Marines a sound basis of tactics and clearing procedures,” said Black. “They learn how to clear different scenarios, such as constricted spaces, rooms, stairs and hallways.”

The Marines began by forming a stack, a formation used for initial entry into a building, outside the mock building about to be cleared. Once the signal was given, they rushed into the building, maintaining momentum and speed as they successfully cleared every doorway, staircase, corner and hallway until the entire building was secured.

They continued their hands-on



Cpl. Jennifer Brofer  
Corporal Kevin Padilla, supply clerk for Bucket Issue, yells ‘freeze!’ as he ascends the staircase with his stack of Marines in order to clear the second-floor room of possible enemies. Verbal control is one of the tactics Marines used during Close Quarters Battle training at the WFTBn. MOUT facility Oct. 22.

training by learning how to deal with aggressive and non-aggressive occupants by exercising escalation of force in various scenarios.

Escalation of force entails the use of verbal, physical and non-lethal control, and as a last resort, deadly force.

During the CQB exercise, the Marines incorporated Initiative Based Tactics. With IBT, the first Marine who takes initiative and decides on a plan of action is the one whom every other Marine must follow in order for the mission to be accomplished successfully. This means every Marine has the opportunity to make a decision, regardless of rank.

“Rank plays no role,” said Black. “If a lance corporal makes a decision, a sergeant can’t say, ‘No, this is how we’re going to do it.’ In order for Initiative Based Tactics to work, everybody has to trust that he knows what he’s doing. You have to have 100 percent, complete trust

in each other.”

For many of the Marines, the last time they had done any kind of MOUT training was at Marine Combat Training. This was a good way for them to get back into the grunt experience.

“It’s good training and it’s fun,” said Sgt. Orville Wempner, a plumber for Emergency Maintenance. “It’s more in depth than anything I’ve ever been in. The main objective is to get in, clear the building and get out safely. It’s real mental — if you’re not thinking, someone could get hurt or killed.”

These same tactics were used by Marines in Iraq recently. However, whether in an infantry unit or not, it is important for every Marine to learn and be familiar with them, stressed Black.

“Everybody is a rifleman, and these tactics are something everybody should be familiar with to maintain a level of proficiency,” he said.

Bailamos . . .



Cpl. Alisha R. Fitzgerald  
Navy Lt. Lorena Marshall, a lab technician at Naval Hospital Beaufort, and Sgt. Antonio Soto, the installers’ chief at Depot telephone, demonstrate Spanish-style dances to those attending at the Hard Corps Café’s Latin Night, part of the Tri-Command’s 2003 National Hispanic Heritage Month celebration, Oct. 24. A Spanish cuisine was served up to those who attended the event. Colonel John Valentin, Assistant Chief of Staff for Depot Installation and Logistics, was on hand as the guest speaker.



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